· CIA 5.03.1 Trenton Trentonian

· SHEVCHENKO, Arkady

(orig includes copy of editorial - cinda Lauder

Washington, D.C. 20505

17 September 1985

Mr. Emil Slaboda
Editor
THE TRENTON TRENTONIAN
Southard at Perry Street
Trenton, N.J. 08602

Dear Mr. Slaboda:

The writer of The TRENTONIAN's editorial on 20 August entitled "Spy Story" professes to be "disturbed" by "published reports" that the Central Intelligence Agency helped defector Arkady Shevchenko write his memoirs.

The "published reports" are not true. The CIA has said publicly in response to the Jay Epstein article in THE NEW REPUBLIC that it in no way assisted Mr. Shevchenko in the writing of his book. In answer to those who allege that Mr. Shevchenko is not all that he claims to be, we also have affirmed that Arkady Shevchenko provided invaluable intelligence information to the U.S. Government. Our statement was carried widely in major publications and by the wire services.

Our democracy is unique and so is our public affairs office here at CIA. No other intelligence organization in the world has one. Our job is to respond when possible to queries from the public and the press about CIA and intelligence. If the answers involve compromising the intelligence sources and methods we are charged by law with keeping secret, we simply cannot respond. We do not lie to the American public nor do we engage in "public relations flimflam to boost" our "image" in the U.S. You have oversight mechanisms in the Congress and under the President to make certain this does not happen.

In the interest of journalistic accuracy, I suggest in the future you call my office to check out your facts.

Sincerely,

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs